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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USD RECEIVES IRVINE FOUNDATION GRANTS FOR UNIVERSITY CENTER, ALUMNI FUND

A proposed \$9.2 million dollar University Center at the University of San Diego has been brought closer to implementation by a \$400,000 grant from the James Irvine Foundation, Newport Beach, it was announced recently by Dr. Author E. Hughes, USD president. The Irvine grant brings commitments to the project to a total of \$2 million.

The Foundation, in a separate action, also increased its challenge support of the USD Alumni Fund to \$200,000 in the current academic year, up from \$53,000 as a result of the first-year challenge, in which alumni more than doubled previous gift records.

Hughes described the University Center as the final project in USD's campus development plans, which have already launched the construction of a new facility for the School of Business Administration, the Helen K. and James S. Copley Library, and the Douglas F. Manchester Executive Conference Center, all scheduled for completion in 1984.

"The University Center," Hughes said, "will truly complete the center of learning envisioned by Bishop Buddy some 40 years ago. For the first time, our student population will be served by a single facility unifying recreational, counselling, medical, and activities functions. This has been a pressing need for some time, and specially in recent year because of our strong enrollment growth." USD's student enrollment has doubled in ten years and currently stands at 5,129.

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The 70,000 square-foot University Center, described as "the living room of the campus," will provide student lounges; dining areas; grille and coffeehouse; game room; the offices of Student Affairs, student government, and Campus Ministry; exhibit areas; an outdoor recreation and travel center; conference and seminar areas; study rooms; and a sundries store. The building will overlook Tecolote Canyon from a site just east of DeSales Hall.

"With the construction for academic needs well underway," Hughes commented, "the University Center has taken top priority in our fund raising efforts. The Irvine Foundation grant is a major step forward towards our remaining goal of \$5.5 million for this important final phase in our campus plans."

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